

## ▶ ECHOES FROM THE LIFE OF THE EUROPEAN PROVINCE

“To be more closely united, work more creatively, and act in greater solidarity we form one province beyond national limitations...”



### Prayer Intentions

This month the Council of the Society of Mary 2013 took place in the Emmaus Retreat and Conference centre, Dublin, Ireland. Every 5 years the major superiors of the Society and the general administration meet to evaluate and discern future steps. Please pray in thanksgiving for graces received during the gathering and for continued guidance of the Holy Spirit in the implementation of decisions.

### GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

This month the province hosted the Council of the Society 2013 in Dublin, Ireland, October 14<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. This forms the prayer intention for the coming month. We hear news of an important Marist Family event in Italy. The final joint provincial-regional council meeting took place in England and you are invited to note the new regional superior's address there. You can also read a taster of Daniel Fernandez's (Esp) pastoral experience. Renovation work begins at La Neylière.

Joaquín Fernández &  
Martin McAnaney

### Quote for the Month from Fr. Colin

*'We must hold fast to the spirit which presided over the birth of the Society. Enquire further into it every day; you will only be good Marists in so far as you really put it into practice. And what is this spirit? It is the spirit of the Blessed Virgin, a spirit of modesty, of humility, of prudence, of simplicity, of discretion.'* (FS 190:1)  
[www.jeanclaudecolin.org](http://www.jeanclaudecolin.org)

### National Conference of the Italian Marist Family, August 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>

Mario Castellucci (It) writes, “10 SMSM and 5 SM Sisters, 9 Marist Fathers along with 16 lay people with 4 children experienced this period of encounter, reflection, prayer and sharing. Sr. Georgeanne Marie Donovan (Superior General of the SMSM) guided reflection on the theme, “Marist Spirituality in a Time of Crisis”. It focused on different levels of the crisis (within the person, society, and the Church ...) to see what answers Marists might offer. This was the third phase of



a journey of renewal which commenced a few years ago. It was the occasion for Marists as Family to pause, look again at the gift we have received, the current reality, the challenges this presents, and the responsibility all this evokes”.



## Provincial Council (PC) and joint meeting with the English regional council October 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>

The final stage of the PC journey around the regions led to the city of Hull, England where Marists have ministered in education, parishes and chaplaincy for many years. The two councils examined the relationship between provincial and regional priorities. Since Notre Dame de France is located in England this adds an important dimension to ministry in the region. Marists continue to animate the national shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham with inter-regional collaboration: While Joe Rooney (Ire) returns to Ireland in November after 3 years, Giovanni Colosio (It) arrives to spend his sabbatical year there. Hull and Walsingham both require further discernment about the best way to continue serving people. On its own agenda, the PC finalised plans for the forthcoming workshop and Council of the Province meeting (November 2013). HBE consulted the PC on matters related to CS2013, Dublin including a discussion of the Honner Report on Governance in the SM. Formation, finance, planning for the year 2014, as well as on-going work in the regions occupied the remaining exchanges.

The English region recently purchased a new regional house in Blackburn where three houses now form one community of 7 confrères. The house looks out over the rural and picturesque *Ribble Valley*, [www.visitribblevalley.co.uk](http://www.visitribblevalley.co.uk). Please take note of the new regional address. **New Marist English Regional Residence:** 18 Waverley Road, Ramsgrave, Blackburn BB1 9BN (UK) +44 1254 246331



## Daniel Fernandez (Esp) at Ranong, on the Myanmar-Thai border

During the summer Daniel joined Marists in the project at Ranong, [www.maristthailand.org](http://www.maristthailand.org) and had the opportunity to get to know the reality of migrants from Myanmar living there. The experience led him to the view that “learning English and Thai can make the difference for them in having and not having a future”. He reached the conclusion that “They need many things, especially good education and basic resources, but I have realised that the only thing I could do for them now is to keep their memory alive and their voice loud”. Read about what led him to this realisation on the link: [bit.ly/1aR047A](http://bit.ly/1aR047A)



## Renovation work begins on the main building, La Neylière

During the last week of September the main building was emptied so work can begin. It will last at least 15 months. The Marist community is now living close by in Pomeys. The schedule of work was finalised during a meeting of the heads of companies involved in the renovations, October 22nd. Remember that during this time hospitality is still available to groups and pilgrims although in a reduced way in the buildings of Wallis and Futuna. However, during the months of December, January and February, it will be completely closed. Please consult the website for details, [www.neyliere.com](http://www.neyliere.com).

